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## **Kent County acquires additional circuit judge under Sen. Hardiman's legislation**

**LANSING** — Legislation that would add a circuit judgeship in Kent County passed the Michigan Senate today, announced Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, the bill's sponsor.

If Hardiman's bill becomes law, the Kent County Board of Commissioners also would have to approve adding another judge to the nine-judge 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, which serves Kent County. The state would pay the \$157,582 in compensation for the judge while the county would pay for support staff and facility space.

"Kent County residents expect prompt access to justice, and the need to add a judge is well documented," Hardiman said. "I will continue to push to get Kent County residents the judicial resources they require now and as our county continues growing."

An October report from the Michigan Supreme Court outlined the need for three additional judgeships, but space and budget constraints limited the recommendation to just one more judgeship.

SB 883 now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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